UNITED NATIONS **ST**

Secretariat

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INFORMATION CIRCULAR*

To: Members of the staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR 1998

1. The purpose of the present circular is to inform the staff that, on 22 December 1997, the General Assembly adopted resolution 52/214, entitled "Pattern of conferences', in which it decided:

> "5. ... that henceforth the two holidays of Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha shall be observed as official holidays of the United Nations at Headquarters, and at other duty stations where applicable, and that United Nations buildings at those locations shall be closed to the public on those days;
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> "6. ... also that no United Nations meetings shall be held on Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha, which occur in 1998 on 29 January and 7 April, respectively, and request[ed] the Secretary-General to ensure strict implementation of this decision and of paragraph 5 above when preparing all future draft calendars of conferences and meetings of the United Nations'.

2. Accordingly, and throughout the Secretariat, no United Nations meetings will be held on 29 January and 7 April 1998.

3. In the light of the provisions of resolution 52/214 referred to above, the designation of official holidays for 1998 shall be as follows:

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 31 December 1998.

(a) At United Nations Headquarters in New York, the following days will be observed as official holidays:

1 January	New Year's Day
29 January	Id al-Fitr
16 February	Presidents' Day
25 May	Memorial Day
3 July	Fourth of July observance
7 September	Labour Day
26 November	Thanksgiving Day
25 December	Christmas Day

(b) One day will be chosen as an additional official holiday by each staff member from the following days, and the other days may be taken as annual leave, if so desired:

7 April	Id al-Adha
10 April	Friday preceding Easter Sunday

One day at the end of the year following the adjournment of the General Assembly (to be designated by the Secretary-General)

Staff members will be requested to inform their supervisors and executive offices in advance as to which one additional day they have elected to take as an official holiday.

(c) United Nations offices will be closed on the days indicated in subparagraph (a) above but will remain open on the days indicated in subparagraph (b) for those who choose to treat them as working days.

4. Id al-Adha and Id al-Fitr will be included in the list of official holidays at other United Nations duty stations where applicable.